

'Pass the Word'

The Davistown RSL sub-Branch Newsletter

Website: <http://www.davistownrslsb.org.au>



Vol 5 | Iss 4 - April 2025

N.B.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 13 APR 25

Lest We Forget!!

Ron Small (19 Feb)

*and all our mates who have
completed their tour of duty!*

Reach out!!

to a mate to see how he or she is
doing!

Sub-Branch 'Active' Members for 2025

**It is that time again when you need
to let me know if you wish to remain
'Active' as a member of RSL NSW for
2025.**

**You call me, tell me, or email me, or
if you attend a meeting this year,
that will also be an indicator.**

'The Davo' Club Voting

Please note that there is no voting for
this years 'Davo' board as just the
right amount of people nominated for
just the right positions.



For more than a century, on Anzac Day Australians have recognised those who have served our country in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

This year marks a poignant milestone: the 110th anniversary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli, Türkiye, in the First World War.

Attending an international Anzac Day Dawn Service is a unique opportunity to commemorate Australia's wartime history on the very lands where these events took place, and the Anzac legend was forged - on the Gallipoli Peninsula and the Western Front.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service in Türkiye will take place at the Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, followed by a mid-morning Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine Cemetery, one of the fiercest battlegrounds fought on by Australians on the peninsula.

N.B. Our Dawn Service will commence at 0550 adjacent to the Memorial Wall.

Military terms/slang:

SCRAN - Term used to refer to food - "Sultanas, Currants, Raisins and Nuts" and more commonly "Shit Cooked by the Royal Australian Navy".

Scran-bag - Lost clothing bag. Also used metaphorically to describe a slovenly, disorganised or incompetent sailor: "I don't want 'X' on my watch, he/she's a complete scranbag."

Standard NATO - Milk and two sugars.

Subbie - An officer of subaltern rank; i.e., Army Lieutenants, Air Force Pilot/Flying Officers, and Navy Sub-Lieutenants.

Tanker/Tanky - Member of the Armoured Corps. A tanky is also a stoker who dips tanks on ships to see how much petrol we still have!

Stoker - a mechanical engineering branch sailor, taken from the old coal fired ship era.

Tupperware - Steyr F88 rifle. Derived from the name of a plastic kitchenware manufacturer (Tupperware is the name of the plastic kitchenware company which also makes the butt group and trigger mech of the rifle).

Victoria Cross Awards:

- 2 Apr 1917 - Private Jørgen Christian Jensen, 50th Battalion, AIF.
8 Apr 1917 - Captain James Ernest Newland, 12th Battalion, AIF.
8 Apr 1917 - Sergeant John Woods Whittle, 2nd Battalion, AIF.
9 Apr 1917 - Private Thomas James Bede Kenny, 2nd Battalion, AIF.
15 Apr 1917 - Lieutenant Charles Pope, 11th Battalion, AIF.
7 Apr 1918 - Lieutenant Percy Valentine Storkey, 19th Battalion, AIF.
24-25 Apr 1918 - Lieutenant Clifford William King Sadlier, 51st Battalion, AIF.
13 Apr 1941 - Corporal John Hurst 'Jack' Edmondson, 2/17th Battalion, AIF.
7 Apr 1967 - Major Peter John Badcoe, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam.

Lest we forget!!

This Month in History:

6 Apr 1942 - US 41st Division arrives in Australia. Between Dec 1941 and Aug 1945 some one million Americans were stationed in Australia. Yankee go Home!!!

8 Apr 1918 - Repatriation Department established. Once soldiers were demobilised all tasks aimed at their rehabilitation and return to civilian life became the responsibility of the Repatriation Department.

9 Apr 1968 - HMAS Sydney arrived at Vung Tau. The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, disembarked and the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked. Sydney made 24 such voyages to Vietnam during the war.

13 Apr 1916 - Jifjaffa. A squadron of the 9th Light Horse Regiment captured this Turkish outpost in the Sinai, about 60 kilometres from the Suez. The encounter, the first engagement for the Light Horse in the Sinai, demonstrated their potential for fighting in the Middle East.



13 Apr 1983 - Dedication of the Rats of Tobruk memorial. The memorial, on ANZAC Parade, was dedicated by the Governor-General of Australia, the Right Hon Sir Ninian Stephen. The memorial commemorates the Australian and Allied servicemen who died during the siege of Tobruk in 1941.

22 Apr 1941 - Evacuation of Greece begins. The evacuation marked the end of the ill-conceived Greek campaign which lasted only three weeks.

23 Apr 1918 - Ostend and Zeebrugge, Belgium, raided. Eleven volunteers from HMAS Australia took part in a raid that aimed to prevent the Germans using these Belgian ports as a bases

for their submarines.

25 Apr 1915 - Landings at Gallipoli. British, French, Australian and New Zealand troops were involved in a series of coordinated landings. Although the Gallipoli campaign was a military failure, the anniversary of the landing has become a

national day of commemoration in Australia and New Zealand, and many other countries around the globe.



28 Apr 1952 - Australia ratifies peace treaty with Japan and official ending of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). From the end of 1948 Australia had taken on the largest role in BCOF. When the state of occupation ended the Commonwealth organisation in Japan was redesignated British Commonwealth Forces Korea and continued supplying and administering Commonwealth forces then fighting in Korea.



April {Aries until 19 Apr/then Taurus} - **Key characteristics:** impulsive in taking decisions, initiative, courage and determination, dynamism and very competitive spirit. Aries is quite naive but has a good reputation for being trustworthy. **Birthstone:** Diamonds and Clear Quartz **Zodiac Totem:** The Ram!!

Aries traits which make them naturally gravitate toward assuming leadership roles. It probably has to do with Aries' planetary symbol which is the Ram; a determined fighter and a powerful adversary associated with Force, Power, Energy, Drive, Protection, Virility and Fearlessness.



Peter Simpson - 2



Emmylou Harris 1947 - Country star who has recorded with Dolly Parton and Linda Ronstadt. She won a Country Music Association Award for Female Vocalist of the Year in 1980. Her second studio album, *Pieces of the Sky*, peaked at #7 on the US Billboard Country Albums Chart. **Before Fame:** She was valedictorian of her high school class in Woodbridge, Virginia. She began creating music while she was a student at University of North Carolina at Greensboro. **Trivia:** She won 14 Grammy Awards over the course of her career. The videos on her popular YouTube channel have been viewed over 57 million times. Throughout her career, she has worked with legends such as Bob Dylan and John Denver.

David Harris - 5

Spencer Tracy 1900-1967 - Received nine Academy Award nominations for Best Actor across his career and won the award two years in a row for the films *Captains Courageous* (1938) and *Boys Town* (1939). **Before Fame:** He was a hyperactive student and regularly ditched class. After studying with Dominican nuns, he became fascinated with cinema. He and his friends later began their own acting company, The Campus Players. **Trivia:** His final film, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, was completed 17 days before his death and earned him a posthumous Academy Award nomination for Best Actor. **Family Life:** He was married to Louis Tracy from 1923 to 1967. He dated actress and frequent co-star Katharine Hepburn from 1941 until his death 26 years later.



John Brennan & Josephine Schmotz - 12



David Letterman 1947 - He became a late night TV sensation during the 1982 debut of NBC's *Late Night with David Letterman*, and later hosted *The Late Show with David Letterman*. In 2014, he announced that he would retire from *The Late Show* in 2015. **Before Fame:** He worked as a weatherman for AM radio station WNTS and anchored on Indianapolis television station WLWI. **Trivia:** Although he registered for the draft during the Vietnam War, he did not fight because he received a draft lottery number 346 (out of 366).

Errol Gray - 20

George Takei 1937 - Most notable for playing Mr. Sulu on *Star Trek*, his first roles were providing voice-overs in English dubbed Japanese monster films, the most widely known being *Godzilla*. **Before Fame:** Growing up, he was a member of the Boy Scout Troop 379 of a nearby Buddhist temple. After graduating high school, he studied architecture at UC Berkeley. **Trivia:** In 2006, he accepted a Freedom of Speech Award for Howard Stern on *Talkers Magazine*.



Simon Schmotz - 24



Barbra Streisand 1942 - Singing icon who has sold over 245 million records and won 10 Grammy Awards, including an Album of the Year Award for *The Barbra Streisand Album* in 1963. She has also had success as an actress, receiving an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in the 1968 musical film *Funny Girl*. **Before Fame:** She starred with Joan Rivers in the off-off-Broadway play, *Driftwood*. **Trivia:** Her song "Evergreen" for the film *A Star Is Born* earned an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song in 1977.

Sean Brooks & Ken Heylbut - 25

Ella Fitzgerald 25 Apr 1917-1996 - The Queen of Jazz who won thirteen Grammy Awards and became a legend for singing "Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall" and "I'm Making Believe." **Before Fame:** After the death of her mother in 1932, she worked as a lookout for a bordello and for a Mafioso numbers runner. **Trivia:** Her rendition of "Summertime" with Louis Armstrong is considered one of the best collaborations in music history.



Mervyn Benoit & Dave Targett - 28



Ferruccio Lamborghini 1918-1993 - Entrepreneur and businessman who started in oil heaters and air conditioning then went on to become the creator of the luxurious Lamborghini sports cars. **Before Fame:** He was captured by the British during WW II and put to work in their motor department. He used his newly-gained knowledge to make tractors for local farmers in Italy after the war. **Trivia:** After discovering a problem with the clutch on his Ferrari, he complained about it to its designer Enzo, who pushed aside the complaints. This eventually spurred Lamborghini to create his own car company.

Alf Hill & John Wood - 29

Carnie Wilson 1968 - American singer and TV personality known for being a member of the group Wilson Phillips alongside her sister Wendy Wilson and their friend Chynna Phillips. She also had her own talk show called Carnie! She has accumulated over 190,000 followers on her carnie68 Instagram page. **Before Fame:** She began her career singing alongside Chynna Phillips, the daughter of The Mamas & the Papas members John Phillips and Michelle Phillips. **Trivia:** She had her own television show, Carnie Wilson: Unstapled, on the Game Show Network. Her song "A Mother's Prayer" has accumulated more than 250,000 streams on Spotify.



May Birthdays

Dave Halliwell - 6

Bill MacLean - 9

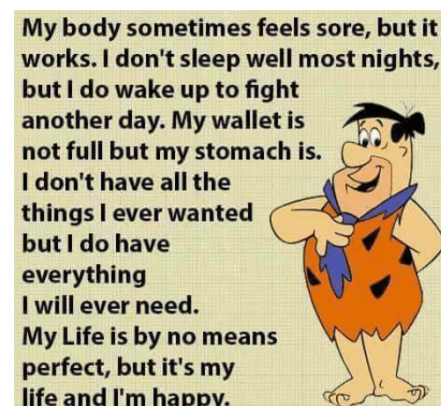
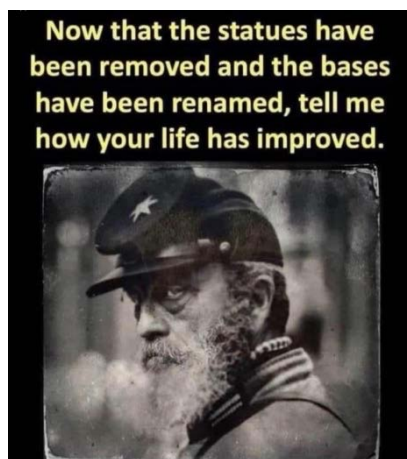
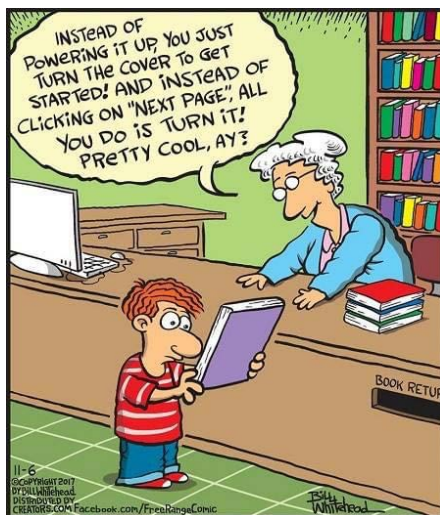
John Hughes - 14

Peter Darling - 15

Chris Salakas - 15

Brian Ward - 18

John Shaw - 27



Important Information on DVA Services and Support for Veterans and Families

We are sharing important information that may assist you, your family, or those you support in accessing services through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). These resources are designed to help veterans, and families navigate available supports, including healthcare, education, financial assistance, and wellbeing programs.

DVA Gold Card – Access to Medical Services

The DVA Gold Card provides funding for clinically needed treatment for all medical conditions, including dental and psychology services.

- Gold Card holders should confirm with their health provider whether they accept the Gold Card and DVA's fee schedule.
- Exceptional circumstances may allow for funding of medical services not listed under the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) or above-DVA fee services.
- If a provider does not accept the DVA fee, they will need to submit a **Prior Financial Authorisation (PFA)** request: [D1328 Treatment prior financial approval request form](#).
- If a Gold Card holder has already paid for services, they can apply for **reimbursement** using the **Application for Reimbursement of Medical Expenses Privately Incurred** form D1181. Submit applications to: medtreat@dva.gov.au.

For more information, contact **1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)** and ask for the Prior Financial Authorisation Team or the Payments and Reimbursements Team.

Education Schemes – Support for Students

DVA provides **Education Schemes** that support eligible students with:

- **Education Allowances**
- **Additional Tuition** – Annual funding for extra tutoring when a student's progress is impacted.
- **Special Assistance** – Covers professional assessments, equipment, extracurricular activities, and other supports.

For more details, visit: [Education schemes | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#) or contact education.schemes@dva.gov.au / **1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)**.

Acute Support Package (ASP) – Crisis Assistance

The **Acute Support Package** provides up to two years of financial and practical support for veterans and families experiencing crisis. Additional funding is available annually for children until they start high school.

Learn more at: [Acute Support Package | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#).

Community and Peer Support – Open Arms

Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling provides **lived experience peer support** to help veterans and families navigate post-service challenges. Peers offer case management and referrals for additional services.

For further details, visit: [Community and peer program | Open Arms](#).

DVA Services and Support Guide

DVA has launched a **comprehensive guide** outlining all available services and support options for veterans and families. Access the guide here: [DVA launches Services Guide | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#).

If you or someone you know could benefit from these supports, we encourage you to explore these resources or reach out for further assistance. Please feel free to share this information with your networks.

For any further queries, contact **1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)**.

Funnies and more....??

A long line outside the store...

It was the day of the big sale. Rumours of the sale and some advertising in the local paper were the main reason for the long line that formed in the morning before the store had even opened.

A small man tried to push his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back, amid loud and colourful curses. On the man's second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw, got knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again.

As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line, "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I don't open the store!"

Birthday bouquet...

A young man was incredibly in love with a beautiful girl. Her birthday was approaching so he told her he would send her a bouquet of roses, one for each year of her life.

That night he called the local florist and ordered twenty-one roses with instructions that they were to be delivered first thing the next morning.

As the florist was preparing the order, he decided that since the young man was such a good customer, he would put an extra dozen roses in the bouquet.

The fellow never did find out what made the young girl so angry with him.

Two ladies and their hisbands...

Two elderly ladies were discussing their husbands over afternoon tea.

"I wish that my Robert would stop biting his nails," one lady said. "It gets me very upset."

"My Harry use to do the same thing, but I broke him out of the habit," the other woman said proudly.

"How?" The first woman asked.

"Well, I hid his teeth."



April Phacts:

From the Latin word aperire, "to open (bud)," because plants begin to grow in this month. In essence, this month was viewed as spring's renewal (well, in the northern hemisphere anyway!!)

2 Apr 1877 - The first Easter Egg Roll is held on the White House Lawn.

4 Apr 1949 - The original twelve countries sign the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) into existence.



10 Apr 1912 - The "unsinkable" RMS Titanic departs on its maiden (and final) voyage from Southampton, England.

13 Apr 1997 - Tiger Woods wins the Masters Golf Tournament, becoming the first African American and youngest person to win this premier golf event.

17 Apr 1964 - The Ford Mustang is formally introduced to the marketplace. The base price: \$2,368.

21 Apr 1918 - German WWI Air Ace Baron Manfred von Richtofen, "The Red Baron", is shot down and killed over Vaux sur Somme, France.

25 Apr 1927 - ANZAC Day is uniformly observed in all Australian states for the first time.

28 Apr 1967 - Muhammad Ali refuses to be inducted into the army and is stripped of his world heavyweight title.

29 Apr 1770 - Leut James Cook arrives and names Botany Bay, aboard HM Bark Endeavour.

29 Apr 1952 - The ANZUS Treaty, a military alliance between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, comes into force.



Welfare Contacts

Club Ltd - 4363 0199 (ask them to contact the sub-Branch for you), or

Welfare Support Officer:

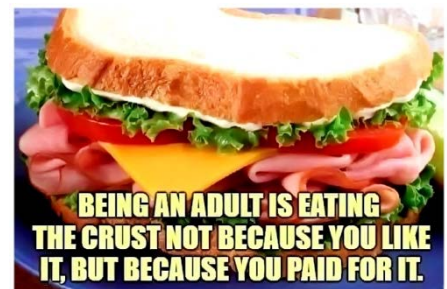
Paul Osborn - 0418 645 715

Secretary:

Pete Grothen - 0412 702 700



My grandson made the mistake of telling me I was being overdramatic so I just changed the WiFi password. We'll see who's overdramatic in about 5 minutes.



Funnies....??

The Barber's Trick

A young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you."

The barber puts a dollar in one hand and two 20-cent pieces in the other, then call the boy over and ask, "Which do you want, son?"

The boy takes the 40 cents and leaves.

"What did I tell you?" said the barber. "That kid never learns!"

Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream store.

"Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the 40 cents instead of the dollar?"

The boy licked his cone and replied, "Because the day I take the dollar, the game is over!"

The New Parents

A woman is entertaining her parents who have come around to congratulate her on the birth of their first grandchild.

"So, when can we see the baby?" asks the grandmother.

"In a little while," replies the mother.

Some time passes. The grandparents are looking quite anxious at this point.

"So, when can we see the baby?" asks the grandfather.

"When the baby starts crying," replies the mother.

The grandparents turn to look at each other, a little perplexed and ask: "Why do we have to wait until she starts crying?!"

The mother snaps back: "Because I put her down somewhere this morning and I can't remember where she is!"



So let me get this straight. I go to To the grocery store and buy a lb. of sliced ham wrapped in plastic, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a gallon of milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins wrapped in plastic, a Greek salad in a plastic container, a plastic bottle of mustard and a plastic bottle of ketchup, and they won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because the plastic bag is bad for the environment?

When you leave Minnesota in the spring to visit your family down south



Fun April Days:

3rd is World Party Day - The idea behind the holiday is that the opposite of war and suffering should not be to passively observe peace. Instead, people must actively participate in the celebration of life.

First in 1996!

The holiday is inspired by the ending of the 1995 novel, *Flight: A Quantum Fiction Novel*, by Vanna Bonta, where a countdown is set to April 3, 2000 when a worldwide synchronized celebration occurs. The first Party Day was held around the world in 1996.

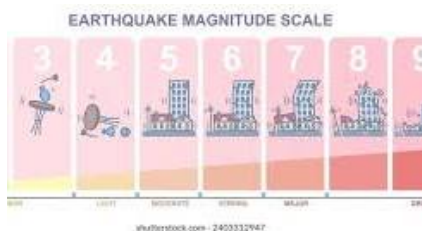


How to Celebrate?

- Research suggests that meeting new people from different cultures helps cultivate intercultural understanding and harmony. So why not throw a party for your family and friends and ask them to bring their friends and coworkers along?
- Organize a block party. Peace begins at home and by being neighborly. Spend time with your neighbors and celebrate your neighbourhood.
- What about partying for a cause? Host a party and have your guests contribute to a cause close to your and your heart.
- Whatever you do and whoever you party with, remember that you need no excuse to celebrate life and to be good to others.

Did You Know...that the use of the word, party, to refer to a gathering where people have a good time dates back to 1922?

26th is Richter Scale Day - Born on this day in 1900, Richter was the inventor of the Richter magnitude scale that measures the intensity of earthquakes.



From 1935!

Known more commonly as the Richter scale, the scale was invented by Richter in 1935. It measures the magnitude of an earthquake on a logarithmic scale of 0 to 10. Each number on the scale refers to an event that is 10 times more powerful than an event with a number before it. This means an earthquake with a magnitude of 4 is 10 times stronger, and releases approximately 32 times more energy, than an earthquake with a magnitude of 3.

Modern Replacements

The Richter scale has now been replaced by more modern scales that calculate the magnitude and strength of earthquakes around the world. Despite this, the media commonly, but mistakenly, uses the term Richter scale when identifying the device that measures earthquakes.

How to Celebrate?

- Learn more about the Richter scale and how it is used to measure the intensity of earthquakes.
- Visit your local space or science museum to learn more about earthquakes and what causes them.
- If you live in an earthquake-prone area, why not use to the day to run some emergency earthquake drills and ensure that your emergency supplies are up to date and easily accessible?

Did You Know...that earthquakes lower than 2.5 on the Richter scale are almost never felt by humans?

A total of 72 earthquakes with a magnitude of four or above have struck within 300 km (186 mi) of Australia in the past 10 years. This comes down to a yearly average of 7 earthquakes per year

A relatively large number of earthquakes occurred near Australia in 2024. A total of 11 earthquakes (mag 4+) were detected within 300 km of Australia that year. The strongest had a 4.8 magnitude.

sub-Branch Event Calendar:

April	Tuesday	1	Committee Meeting	1330
	Sunday	13	General Meeting	1100
	Wednesday	23	ANZAC Day Appeal	0900-1500 (we still need helpers)
	Friday	25	ANZAC Day Dawn Service	0555
May	Tuesday	6	Committee Meeting	1100
	Tuesday	13	General Meeting	1100
June	Tuesday	3	Committee Meeting	1100
	Tuesday	10	General Meeting	1100

Editor's Note: Any comments, complaints, or if you would like to provide any items or information for inclusion in future issues of 'Pass the Word', please send an email to: davistownsb@rslnsw.org.au

I am especially keen for members to provide any interesting facts/stories of a military nature which can be included

Disclaimer: While every care is taken to check spelling, dates, facts, information, etcetera, errors will undoubtedly occur. Please accept my apologies in advance, and when errors do occur rest assured that no offence is intended, and I trust none will be taken.

Yours aye, Pete G

